(e) The Management of NFL has advised the union that the process of disinvestment will be in the interest of the company and it will not affect the employees adversely.

Off loading of stake in NFL

2798. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to off-load 51 per cent of its stake in the National Fertilizers Limited to a strategic investor;

(b) whether the necessary bids for this off-loading have been received; if so, the names of the companies who have submitted quotations; and

(c) whether these bids have been processed by Government; if so, the details of decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Transparency in Drug Price Fixation

2799. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's drug price fixing procedure is not transparent and pharmaceutical manufacturers have raised objections in this regard;

(b) if so, whether Government are actually considering to bring out a new drug policy, to make price fixing transparent;

(c) if so, whether functioning of the NPPA would be restructured; and

(d) if so, the extent to which prices of drugs would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Prices of bulk drugs and formulations are fixed in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Review petitions, as and when filed by manufacturers, are considered on merits and in the process, personal hearing is also given. In order to achieve greater transparency, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has started the practice of holding meetings with the manufacturers of bulk drugs after the plant visits and before fixation of price. Government have recently announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy 2002'. The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production.

(c) and (d) Pharmaceutical Policy-2002 recognizes the need for reorientation of NPPA, so as to achieve effective monitoring and enforcement. Price fixation will however, continue to follow the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

Disinvestment of fertilizers PSUs

2800. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector undertakings under Department of Fertilizers at present;

(b) the performance of each of these undertakings *vis-a-vis* the target during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to disinvest any of these undertakings; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The following are, at present, the eight (8) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers:—